United Nations A/63/596

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 13 and 18

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to transmit a joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Nagorno-Karabakh (see annex). The declaration was adopted at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) ministerial meeting held on 4 December 2008, in Helsinki.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 13 and 18.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

08-64476 (E) 151208

Annex to the letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Joint declaration of the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of France, the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Nagorno-Karabakh

Helsinki, 4 December 2008

We, the Foreign Ministers and Deputy Ministers of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries — France, Russia, and the United States — call on the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to build on the positive momentum established during the meeting of the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan in Moscow on 2 November 2008. The Moscow Declaration signed that same day opened a new and promising phase in our shared endeavour to expand peace in the South Caucasus. In that declaration, the Presidents reaffirm their commitment to advancing a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the framework of the Basic Principles developed by the Minsk Group Co-Chairs in collaboration with the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the basis of their proposals advanced last year in Madrid.

We call on the parties to work with the Co-Chairs to finalize the Basic Principles in coming months, and then begin drafting a comprehensive peace settlement as outlined by those agreed principles. In keeping with the Moscow Declaration, we call on the parties to work with the Co-Chairs to develop confidence-building measures, beginning with pulling back snipers from the Line of Contact to save lives of innocent civilians and soldiers, as our mediators already proposed to the sides at the highest level during the last visit in mid-November. It is urgent that the parties work with each other, the Co-Chairs, and the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office to stabilize the ceasefire through this and other measures. We reiterate our firm view that there is no military solution to the conflict and call on the parties to recommit to a peaceful resolution.

United Nations A/63/597–S/2008/762

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 10
Report of the Peacebuilding Commission

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 5 December 2008 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Security Council and the President of the Economic and Social Council

We have the honour to refer to the conclusions and recommendations of the Peacebuilding Commission on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau (PBC/3/GNB/4).

This document was developed in line with the Peacebuilding Commission's mandate to advise on the challenges presented by post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery to the countries under its consideration. It refers to the successful holding of legislative elections in Guinea-Bissau on 16 November, the contribution provided by the Commission to the electoral process and the threats to the consolidation of peace and democracy following a reported incident of violence against the residency of the President of Guinea-Bissau on 23 November.

The conclusions and recommendations agreed upon by the Commission aim at ensuring the sustained attention of the international community to Guinea-Bissau in its process of peaceful democratic consolidation. They also aim at mobilizing all relevant stakeholders in providing continuous support to the peacebuilding priorities in the country, as outlined in the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, 31 July 2008 (PBC/3/GNB/3).

The Peacebuilding Commission also reiterates herein its commitment to paying close attention to developments in Guinea-Bissau and to monitoring progress on and risks to the consolidation of peace.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Chairperson
Peacebuilding Commission

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza Ribeiro **Viotti**
Chairperson
Guinea-Bisssau configuration
Peacebuilding Commission

08-65430 (E) 171208

United Nations A/63/598–E/2009/7

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2008
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 49
Sustainable development

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2009
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Letter dated 28 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The 2008 Zaragoza International Exhibition on the theme of "Water and Sustainable Development" was held from 14 June to 14 September 2008. Some 104 countries together with a number of international organizations, including from the United Nations system, participated.

The Spanish Government was especially honoured by the visit which you paid, on behalf of the United Nations, to the Zaragoza Exhibition. Your visit was one of the many paid to the Exhibition by Heads of State and Government of countries all over the world.

At the closing session of the Zaragoza Exhibition, a summary was presented of the work done by the Water Tribune, in which more than 2,000 eminent persons and experts from various countries of the world participated. Participants discussed and elaborated proposals to overcome the major water-related challenges that face humanity now and in the future.

The outcome of the working sessions of the Water Tribune was the so-called "2008 Zaragoza Charter", which summarizes the conclusions arrived at by the scientists and experts in attendance and reflects their position on the various aspects of a question of such importance as water and sustainable development (see annex).

I am pleased to attach herewith the text of the "2008 Zaragoza Charter" and request that you kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49, and of the Economic and Social Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Antonio **Yáñez-Barnuevo**

08-64621 (E) 181208 191208

Annex to the letter dated 28 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

The 2008 Zaragoza Charter

The 2008 Zaragoza International Exhibition was the first ever to exclusively deal with "Water and Sustainable Development". The 2008 Expo was a great international event held on the banks of the River Ebro in which 104 countries, three international organisations, and all of Spain's autonomous communities and cities took part.

Following the guidelines set by the International Exhibitions Bureau (BIE), the Exhibition at all stages tied in with the work of the United Nations on water.

The Exhibitions, which are run in the spirit of the aims of the BIE, have become international events that obtain more direct participation from everyday citizens and are a prodigious exercise in civic education. At the International Zaragoza Exhibition, millions of visitors have gained a deeper insight into the planet's water and sustainable development problems.

As the scientific and technical platform for the 2008 Zaragoza Expo, the Water Tribune served as a stage to disseminate knowledge transfer, and gave rise to debates and proposals to overcome the major water-related challenges that face humanity now and in the future. Throughout the 93 days that sessions were held, the Tribune was the largest, all-embracing international event on Water and Sustainable Development.

The Water Tribune's activities came to an end two days ago with the presentation of its conclusions, and today at this closing ceremony it is to present its final analysis in the shape of the 2008 Zaragoza Charter.

Preamble. A new comprehensive vision of water

Those of us who have been involved with the Water Tribune are well aware that water is essential to life and to the planet.

New paradigms on water and sustainable development aim to supersede a purely anthropocentric viewpoint by positing that the integrated management of water resources will ensure the survival of the human race and protect the planet.

Considering:

1 That the Earth's water and ecosystems must be preserved and protected.

2 That access to drinking water and sanitation is a human right that must be guaranteed by all public authorities.

3 That by accepting Millennium Development Goals, the Earth's nations have pledged a serious commitment to water-related issues.

4 That access to water has an enormous influence on development.

5 That water plays a fundamental role in the production and transfer of energy.

6 That there will be an ever-increasing demand for water, mainly due to the growth of the population and the economy, all of which may result in a bigger "water footprint".

7 That forecasts show that climate change is capable of modifying the availability and demand for water all over the planet.

8 That current technologies make it possible to produce fresh water from sea water and fog, as well as to regenerate and reuse it, at reasonable prices and with less environmental impact.

9 That the durability and transformation of rural areas are directly linked to the availability and sustainable use made of water.

10 That the sustainable production of food is directly linked to the efficient use of water.

11 That education, culture, communications and participation must form the basis of the transformation in the management of the world's water resources.

12 That it is essential to strengthen all levels of governance in order to bring about integrated water management and sustainability, which implies the greater participation and sharing of responsibilities by society.
13 That river basins are the best suited environments for harnessing water and their good management makes it possible to resolve conflicts between countries, regions and users.
14 That ensuring channels of financing and ways of sharing financial risks, using criteria of sustainability, is essential to the success of initiatives and actions in the water sector.
15 That the investment in water infrastructures in developing countries is essential in order to reduce poverty and to bring about economic growth and that current levels of investment fall short of those set by the Millennium Development Goals.
16 That the public authorities must take the initiative in promoting the legislation and arrangements required to ensure access to water by all.
17 That research, development and innovation are the cornerstones that underpin our knowledge, solutions, well-being and sustainability in water-related issues.

The Water Tribune RECOMMENDS:

A. AS GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

A1 That the development of societies should be based on sustainable and environmentally friendly criteria.
A2 That priorities must be set and commitments made with regard to water that are in the general interests of humanity, and that are founded on ethical sustainability principles, transparency, and intra- and inter-generational equality.
A3 That water management schemes should promote community participation, efficiency and solidarity through shared knowledge and experiences, whose end purpose is to being about individual and collective awareness.
A4 That commitments and regulations should be established to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and extreme weather events, and to adapt to such circumstances.
A5 That solutions and water management schemes must adapt to the rate of development, the culture, the social environment and economic climate of each region and society.
A6 That the basic management units of water resources should be river basins and aquifers, even in cases in which they are of a supranational nature.
A7 That every individual must have access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation, both in rural and urban areas, through the acceptance of global commitments, the setting of realistic targets and the adoption of specific solutions.
A8 That the supply of drinking water and the collection and treatment of wastewater are priority issues. Public administrations must provide these services at a fair price and also be in a position to cover their costs.
A9 That the management of demand must be at least as important and the management of offer in decisions on policies, strategies, plans, programmes and budgets.
A10 That the research, development and innovation in water-related technologies must be encouraged, and that the transfer of results and benefits to society must be speeded up.
A11 That a World Water Agency must be set up whose main missions would be:

a To draw up and present the Charter of the Rights and Responsibilities of Human Beings with Water to the United Nations.
b To devise a universal framework of standards on water within the context of sustainable development that is recognised by all countries.
c To prepare and promote the development of the International Convention on Climate Change, Extreme Weather Events and Risk Management for dealing with water resources.
d To encourage the approval of the International Protocol for the Pacific and Productive Management of Cross-border River Basins in the world.
e To help countries that ask for support in the integrated management of water.
f To foster the knowledge, principles and values, in coherence with the above, that will lead to acceptable ethics of water.

g To promote the efficient and global dissemination and exchange of good practices, lessons learnt, models, reproducible processes and experiences that have been successful, and to issue recommendations though an information and knowledge transfer centre about water and sustainable development.
h To encourage alliances between the public and private sectors that make it possible to join forces so that universal water supplies and sanitation become a reality.

B. TO THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, USERS OF WATER AND CITIZENS

B1 That ecosystems be effectively protected for their intrinsic values and to guarantee the durability of sources of water.
B2 That basic sanitation and wastewater treatment services be provided to match local realities, which attain world standards of sanitation that ensure health, hygiene and well-being.
B3 That measures be adopted to guarantee a basic water supply to all homes or as close to them as possible. In situations of poverty, governments must guarantee a minimum supply of water.
B4 That legal systems and the regulations drawn up take non-detrimental cultural habits and the ancestral rights of local communities into consideration.
B5 That the management of public water and sanitation services be under the control of public authorities.
B6 That the demand for water should be monitored to fit in with educational, informational, participative and tariff-based criteria.
B7 That delays in water supplies reaching rural areas should be shortened through the exchange of experiences and participative management schemes, which should be adapted to and accepted by the communities using them.
B8 That technologies be promoted and applied to bring about water savings, desalination and sea water applications, the harvesting of fog and rain, and the purification, regeneration and reuse of water. Such technologies should be energy-efficient with a low environmental impact in order to reach sustainable energy targets.
B9 That given the anticipated figures in population growth, countries should consider agriculture to be both an economic and strategic sector.
B10 That measures be devised and disseminated to improve irrigation systems through a more efficient use of water energy.
B11 That viable funding schemes with guarantees be drawn up between countries and institutions. They should provide for the possibility of attracting capital from the market for investments in the water infrastructures necessary to provide public supply and sanitation services, as well as attracting the human resources required to do so.
B12 That rational economic criteria be applied that promote efficiency and sustainability, which should likewise adopt the principles of social and environmental justice in the management of water.
B13 That integrated policies be set to facilitate the allocation of water for its various uses, providing that in doing so economic efficiency and environmental quality are favoured.
B14 That all citizens share the responsibility of the integrated management of water and sustainability.
B15 That citizens come to realise that water is the heritage of all living beings, not just a resource for human use.

ZARAGOZA 2008: AN EXPO WITHOUT AN EXPIRY DATE

In order to promote its recommendations, this 2008 Zaragoza Charter will be entrusted to the Secretariat General of the United Nations Organisation, the International Exhibitions Bureau and the Government of Spain.

All of the documents on which this Charter is based — speeches, debates, analyses and conclusions — are kept, as a heritage to be shared, in various appendices to the *Legado* (Legacy) and the *Caja Azul* (Blue Box), which shall be left in the custody of Spain, as the host country of the 2008 International Exhibition.

Zaragoza, 14 de September 2008
Closing Day of the 2008 Zaragoza International Exhibitions

ZAŞAGOZA 2008: AN EXPO WITHOUT AN EXPIRY DATE

THE 2008 ZARAGOZA CHARTER

United Nations A/63/599–S/2008/788

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 December 2008

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 21
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 10 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 7 November 2008 addressed to you (A/63/543-S/2008/704), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 2 to 27 November 2008, as follows:

On 2 November 2008, two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft twice violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 4 November 2008, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 5 November 2008, one CN-235 and two C-130 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 7 and 8 November 2008, one Bell, one Cougar and two CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 11 November 2008, three CN-235 and two B-200 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 13 November 2008, one CN-235, one Cougar and two Gulf Stream Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 14 November 2008, four F-16, fourteen NF-5, three C-160, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations nine times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus nine times.

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On 15 November 2008, eleven NF-5, two Cougar and one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations four times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus four times.

On 16 November 2008, seven NF-5, two F-16, two Gulf Stream, three C-160, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations eleven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus nine times.

On 17 November 2008, four CN-235 and one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations five times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus five times.

On 18 November 2008, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 19 November 2008, two C-160 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On 21 November 2008, two CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations three times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus three times.

On 26 November 2008, two CN-235, one C-650 and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations seven times and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus seven times.

On 27 November 2008, one CN-235 and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations twice and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus twice.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the aforementioned violations and call for their immediate cessation.

These violations blatantly endanger the safety of international civil aviation and contravene international law and air traffic regulations. Furthermore, they put peace and stability in the region at stake. The Government of Turkey should heed the call of the international community, abide by the Charter of the United Nations and respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, thus contributing to the creation of the required conditions for the achievement of a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 21, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Minas A. **Hadjimichael**

United Nations A/63/600

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 117
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In its resolution 41/213, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit, in off-budget years, an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium. Accordingly, the outline for the biennium 2010-2011 is hereby submitted. The level of the contingency fund for 2010-2011 is recommended to be set at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of the proposed programme budget outline.

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I. Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, the Secretary-General submits, in off-budget years, an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which should contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

The outline for the biennium 2010-2011 is hereby submitted.

II. Preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium

2. In establishing a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2010-2011, the approved level of appropriations and related commitments, namely $4,207.6 million, was taken as the starting point. These existing provisions consist of: (a) the initial amount of $4,171.4 million appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolutions 62/237 A-C; and (b) subsequent additional appropriations of $36.2 million approved by the Assembly for the funding of special political missions in resolution 62/245. The preliminary estimate, expressed in initial 2008-2009 prices, has been arrived at as follows.

(Millions of United States dollars)

Appropriation for 2008-2009[a]		4 207.6
Plus: full provision for new posts approved in 2008-2009 (see para. 3)	44.3	
Less: one-time costs in 2008-2009 (see para. 5)	(31.4)	
Plus: provision for new or expanded activities/events foreseen and/or mandated in 2010-2011 (see para. 12)	7.2	
Changes		**20.1**
Subtotal		**4 227.7**
Additional provision required for special political missions at the current programme level		**390.2**
Preliminary estimate for established activities 2010-2011		**4 617.9**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolutions 62/237 A-C) and subsequent appropriations (resolution 62/245).

A. Full provision for new posts

3. In its resolution 59/278, the General Assembly endorsed the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/415) on the proposed programme budget outline, including the continuation of the practice of costing provisions for new posts at 50 per cent for the Professional level and above and 65 per cent for the General Service and related categories. Consequently, the full biennial provision in 2010-2011 for those posts that were newly established in the biennium 2008-2009 and at present are only partially funded would require an additional $44.3 million in the biennium 2010-2011. This additional provision is required to maintain the regular budget established post staffing table at the same level of posts as has been already approved for 2008-2009.

4. The additional requirements of $44.3 million relate mainly to part I, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, in connection with the strengthening of the administration of justice system and of conference services so as to provide for quality control in relation to the increasing outsourcing of translation of documents ($12.9 million). The additional requirements also pertain to part VI, Human rights and humanitarian affairs, in connection with the strengthening of the management structure of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ($11.1 million). The balance of the provision for delayed impact is distributed among the various other parts of the budget in varying degrees, including part II, Political affairs, part V, Regional cooperation for development, part VIII, Common support services, and part IX, Internal oversight.

B. One-time costs in the biennium 2008-2009

5. One-time costs in the biennium 2008-2009 amounting to $31.4 million would not be required. Such provisions, which were included and approved in the context of the consideration of the proposed programme budget, amount to $12.0 million, relating mainly to: (a) construction, alteration and improvement costs associated with the United Nations enterprise network at Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Vienna; (b) the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), including training; (c) the preparatory work on the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the resumed session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice; (d) the acquisition and replacement of equipment for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; (e) the acquisition by the International Court of Justice of the Electronic Document and Records Management System; and (f) the acquisition of security and safety equipment at Headquarters. One-time costs amounting to $7.2 million were also approved for 2008-2009 in connection with a number of revised estimates that were submitted by the Secretary-General after the proposed programme budget was prepared but that formed part of the initial appropriation as approved. Other one-time costs totalling $12.2 million relate to decisions of the Human Rights Council and various statements of programme budget implications approved for 2008-2009, including conference-servicing provisions for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the acquisition of proprietary software relating to oceans and the law of the sea. For the purpose of

the present report, all costs provided in 2008-2009 for special political missions have been treated as being of a recurrent nature, consistent with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions that the methodology reflect the recurrent nature of the provision (see A/60/7, para. 40).

C. Provision for programme changes in the biennium 2010-2011

6. During the biennium 2010-2011, it is expected that resources will be required to cover the continuing costs of the implementation of an enterprise resource planning system, training related to the implementation of IPSAS, which, owing to the delay in IPSAS implementation, will not be undertaken at the level anticipated in 2008-2009 and will gain momentum during the biennium 2010-2011 and the continued strengthening of the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in accordance with prevailing resolutions. Relevant estimated requirements are also included for the holding of the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as for public information support related to the holding of other conferences and meetings.

7. It is also anticipated that additional requirements will arise with regard to the operations of the International Court of Justice. In this connection, it will be recalled that in accordance with regulation 2.14 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the programme budget proposals of the Court are prepared by the Court in consultation with the Secretary-General and shall be submitted to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as he or she deems desirable.

8. In addition to the foregoing, resource requirements are anticipated in connection with a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations. In this regard, it will be recalled that by its resolution 61/263, the General Assembly emphasized the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations. The Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session on a wide range of issues.

9. Following the attack on the United Nations offices in Algiers on 11 December 2007, the Secretary-General appointed an independent panel to establish all the facts concerning the attack and to address strategic issues vital to the delivery and enhancement of staff security in United Nations operations worldwide.

10. As the outcome of the review and the findings of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide would have an impact on the safety and security policy framework at the United Nations, it was deemed appropriate to delay the report requested in resolution 61/263 in order to present a comprehensive security approach for consideration by Member States.

11. The report of the Independent Panel was presented to the Secretary-General in June 2008. It recommends, inter alia, that the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security conduct a management review of the organization of the Department of Safety and Security. The review is currently under way, and the findings will be presented to the General Assembly in 2009. In the interim, resources are foreseen

for those elements of security which require immediate consideration and which are not likely to be affected by the outcome of the management review.

12. As a result of the strengthening of the areas described above, together with efforts for realignment, net projected requirements amounting to a 0.2 per cent growth in programme resources, or $7.2 million, are foreseen for 2010-2011.

D. Special political missions

13. Requirements for the funding of special political missions have increased significantly in recent years. In the bienniums 2004-2005, 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, provisions proposed in the context of the programme budget outline amounted to $110.2 million, $180.0 million and $284.6 million respectively. Taking into account the expansion of special political requirements and in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget outline for 2008-2009 (A/61/615), the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/254, endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee as contained in paragraph 11 of its report for a preliminary estimate of some $4.2 billion for the biennium 2008-2009, including a provision of $604.1 million for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended into or approved during the course of the biennium 2008-2009.

14. By its resolution 62/238, the General Assembly decided to reduce the overall provision for special political missions for the biennium 2008-2009 by some $200.2 million and approved a charge totalling $386.6 million against the amount appropriated for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, under the terms of Assembly resolution 62/237 A. This provision was subsequently adjusted by the Assembly in its resolution 62/245, whereby it approved additional budgets for special political missions for 2008 totalling $49.0 million, took note of the balance of $17.3 million in the overall provision for special political missions and appropriated an additional amount of $31.6 million for special political missions to provide total resources for 2008 amounting to $435.5 million.

15. On the basis of the experience in the current biennium adjusted for missions whose mandates have been completed or discontinued, it is estimated that the full biennial provision in 2010-2011 for special political missions existing in 2008-2009 would amount to $825.7 million. While the present composition of special political missions will change somewhat in 2010-2011, it is not anticipated that the overall level will trend downward. The maintenance of the initial provision of $435.5 million for 2010-2011 would seriously and materially underestimate likely requirements as it would provide slightly less than half of currently anticipated biennial requirements. Accordingly, an increase of $390.2 million is included in the outline estimate, which would provide funding for special political missions at a level of $825.7 million in 2010-2011.

16. It should be noted that special political missions clearly exhibit characteristics that set them apart from other activities of the Organization financed from the regular budget. The structures in each of the missions do not form a part of the organizational structure of the United Nations Secretariat. Their activities are directed towards operational matters and as such do not lend themselves to full integration with the programme of work of the Secretariat. Because of their unique characteristics, special political missions are not treated in accordance with the

Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The procedures followed for the initiation of the missions, whether through the Security Council or the General Assembly, do not follow the programme planning and budgeting cycle of the regular budget. Furthermore, special political missions may be approved at any time of the year. Accordingly, their timing and related resource requirements have consistently proven almost impossible to predict accurately. Under the circumstances, the Assembly may wish to consider whether special political missions are amenable to treatment under the present regular budget procedures for estimating requirements in the budget outline and subsequent programme budgets.

E. Summary

17. Consistent with established practice, the detailed programme budget proposals for 2010-2011 will maintain a focus on ensuring that resources are committed in support of accomplishments expected for the period and objectives established by Member States. The budget preparation process will continue to include a detailed review of programme outputs to ensure their contribution and relevance, under approved strategies, for the fullest possible achievement of expected accomplishments consistent with the application of regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. Thus, the budget proposals will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures.

18. The requirements set out in the present outline are subject to recosting, prior to their approval by the General Assembly, to reflect, inter alia, changes owing to inflation and exchange rates for the biennium 2010-2011.

III. Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature

19. In the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011 (A/63/6 (Part one)), the following priorities were proposed: promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences; maintenance of international peace and security; development of Africa; promotion of human rights; effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts; promotion of justice and international law; disarmament; and drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. **It is proposed that the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 also manifest those priorities.** The proposed distribution of resources by budget part is set out in the annex.

IV. Real growth compared with the previous budget

20. **The preliminary estimate ($3,792.2 million), before the inclusion of special political missions, represents an increase of $20.1 million, or 0.5 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations and related provisions for the biennium 2008-2009. Once account is taken of the full inclusion of required provisions for special political missions, the total preliminary estimate of $4,617.9 million would represent an increase of $410.3 million, or 9.8 per cent, compared with existing provisions for the biennium 2008-2009.**

V. Size of the contingency fund

21. The size of the contingency fund was set at 0.75 per cent of the overall level of resources for the first outline and all subsequent ones. It is recommended that the level again be set at 0.75 per cent, or $34.6 million, for the biennium 2010-2011.

VI. Other issues

22. As at the time of the submission of the present report, there are several initiatives of which the General Assembly is currently seized or on which reports are expected to be submitted by the Secretary-General. Those items, when considered and if adopted, will have a significant bearing on the level of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. These items include proposals on the administration of justice, costs associated with the capital master plan, the strengthened and unified security management system, after-service health insurance, construction in Baghdad and the study for the strategic heritage plan in Geneva. However, the extent of such requirements is dependent on decisions yet to be taken by the Assembly.

Annex

Preliminary indicative estimates for the biennium 2010-2011

(Millions of United States dollars)

Expenditures by part of programme budget	*2008-2009 appropriation*[a]	*Resource change*		*Total*
		Amount	*Percentage*	
I. Overall policymaking, direction and coordination	718.6	(7.3)	(1.0)	711.3
II. Political affairs (not including special political missions)	222.2	0.4	0.2	222.6
III. International justice and law	87.3	—	—	87.3
IV. International cooperation for development	398.4	0.4	0.1	398.8
V. Regional cooperation for development	477.1	0.5	0.1	477.6
VI. Human rights and humanitarian affairs	259.2	11.8	4.5	271.0
VII. Public information	184.0	(2.1)	(1.1)	181.9
VIII. Common support services	540.2	4.8	0.9	545.0
IX. Internal oversight	36.0	2.8	7.7	38.8
X. Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	108.4	—	—	108.4
XI. Capital expenditures	58.8	(6.7)	(11.3)	52.1
XII. Safety and security	197.2	10.2	5.2	207.4
XIII Development Account	18.7	—	—	18.7
XIV. Staff assessment	466.0	5.3	1.1	471.3
Regular budget established activities 2010-2011	**3 772.1**	**20.1**	**0.5**	**3 792.2**
Provision for special political missions	435.5	390.2	89.6	825.7
Total	**4 207.6**	**410.3**	**9.8**	**4 617.9**

[a] Includes the initial appropriation (General Assembly resolution 62/237 A) and subsequent additional appropriations for special political missions (General Assembly resolution 62/245).

United Nations A/63/601

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118
Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under sections 3 and 32 related to the provision of an integrated headquarters facility for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, in Baghdad

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under sections 3 and 32 related to the proposed provision of an integrated headquarters facility for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq, in Baghdad (A/62/828). The report was submitted in response to section V, paragraph 15, of General Assembly resolution 62/238. The Committee also had before it the relevant section of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq" (A/63/346/Add.5, paras. 20-23). During its consideration of the report (A/62/828), the Committee held a videoconference with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Baghdad and also met with other representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee notes that, according to the Secretary-General, there have been a number of developments since the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/828), including the provision of a new site by the Government of Iraq for a period of 25 years (see A/63/346/Add.5, para. 21). The Committee was also informed that the Government of Iraq had agreed to contribute $25 million from the allocation of the 2009 federal budget to the construction project (see also para. 12 below). In the light of these developments, the Advisory Committee requested and obtained an update of the actions required of the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 63 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/828) (see paras. 13 and 20-25 below).

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Location and scope of the project

3. In his report (A/63/346/Add.5), the Secretary-General indicated that the Government of Iraq had been unable to allocate the site known as the Al-Sijud Palace, as proposed in his report A/62/828, and that the Government had offered an adjacent site, of approximately 40,000 square metres, located within the international zone. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the site would be provided free of charge for a period of 25 years and that ownership and use of the site at the end of the lease period would then be subject to negotiations between the Government of Iraq and the United Nations. As stated in his report (A/63/346/Add.5), given its proximity to the Al-Sijud location, the new site in the international zone would enjoy the same security arrangements and other benefits of the future diplomatic areas as the Al-Sijud site.

4. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the offer of a site by the Government of Iraq. The Committee recommends that, as further steps are contemplated, the Secretary-General apprise the General Assembly of all the issues related to the development and utilization of the integrated compound, including clarification of the contributions by the Government of Iraq.**

Planning assumptions

5. The planning assumptions for the construction project are outlined in section V of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/828). In paragraph 26 of the report, the Secretary-General indicated that the staff ceiling was set by the Department of Safety and Security and was managed on a day-to-day basis by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General as designated official for security in Iraq. He also indicated, in paragraph 28, that the staff strength underlying the planning assumptions was as follows: a total of 165 international staff, including 50 staff of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes (accommodation, office and workspace); a total of 150 national staff (office and workspace only); a total of 50 members of a United Nations Guard Unit/Force (accommodation, office and workspace for a contingent provided by a troop-contributing country, a United Nations guard unit or personnel/staff provided by a commercial security support contractor); and 60 contractual support staff (accommodation, office and workspace for the services of support contractors).

6. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposal does not include any provision for space for Mission staff currently located outside of Iraq, in Kuwait and Jordan, or for accommodating any expansion of the United Nations system presence. **The Committee is of the view that provision should be made for the appropriate participation of other stakeholders in the design approval team, which, according to paragraph 53 of the report of the Secretary-General, is responsible for ensuring that the design meets user requirements. The Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General report on the consultations in the context of his comprehensive proposal to be submitted to the General Assembly (see also A/63/346/Add.5, para. 23).**

7. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was updated on the operational constraints faced by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), with regard to the construction of the UNAMI compound, and was informed that the local procurement of materials for construction and access of workers inside the international zone remained limited owing to security risks. Obtaining goods and

services outside of Iraq would therefore add considerable costs to the project. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that construction firms that successfully bid on the project would have to be vetted in order to operate inside the international zone. In addition, construction firms and their personnel would require continuous protection, not only at the actual site but also en route to and from the Baghdad International Airport.

8. As noted in the report of the Advisory Committee on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, the Committee was informed that the UNAMI status of mission agreement, signed in 2005, had yet to be ratified by Iraq (see A/63/593, para. 141).

Project timetable

9. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with an updated project timetable (see annex). The Committee notes that construction is planned to be completed in October 2010, which is the completion date projected in the report of the Secretary-General (see A/62/828, para. 46). **The Advisory Committee recommends to the General Assembly that, if it were to decide to approve the commitment authority for the preliminary study, it request the Secretary-General to specify the timetable of the envisaged construction project (see also A/63/346/Add.5, para. 23).**

Cost and financing of the project

10. Total preliminary costs for the project are estimated at $98.6 million, including an estimated $73.1 million for construction and equipment costs (see A/62/828, paras. 37-38). The Secretary-General noted in paragraph 36 of the report that the cost of construction was based on the cost of a 2,000 square metre staff accommodation project that had been implemented in the international zone by another international organization. The cost of that project was $3 million or $1,500 per square metre. A factor of 40 per cent was applied to the base cost given that the other project had been implemented more than two years ago on a turnkey basis. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed of additional reasons for applying the 40 per cent factor, including higher security specifications for the UNAMI compound, as well as higher material prices, which have increased up to 30 per cent over the last six months.

11. With regard to the total cost of the construction project, the Secretary-General noted in his report that "the Government of Iraq has further indicated its willingness to contribute, and it is the understanding of the United Nations that the Government of Iraq would contribute, towards the construction of the facility" (A/62/828, para. 34). The Committee was informed that such a contribution would be part of the overall funding of the project and that the modalities, terms and timing of receipt would need to be confirmed with the Government of Iraq.

12. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Government of Iraq had pledged a contribution in the amount of $25 million for the construction project. The Committee was further informed that, on 2 November 2008, the Council of Ministers of Iraq had approved the contribution from the allocation of the 2009 federal budget. **The Committee understands that the Secretary-General is currently discussing with the Iraqi authorities the possibility of a further**

pledge beyond 2009. The Advisory Committee expects that the Secretary-General will report on the issue in his next report.

13. With regard to the preliminary design phase, the Advisory Committee recalls that the initial estimate of the Secretary-General ranged between $12.3 million and $17.3 million (see A/62/512/Add.5, paras. 140-142). The estimate has now been significantly reduced to $5 million and it is requested that the estimate be provided as a commitment authority for 2009. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General initially proposed the transfer of $5 million from section 3, Political affairs, to section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/828, para. 63 (d)). Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with a revised request seeking approval of a commitment authority for 2009 for UNAMI in the amount of $5 million under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

14. The Advisory Committee was informed that the lower estimate would cover the scope described in paragraphs 43 and 51 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/828) and that there would be a particular focus on: (a) a site survey (assessment of existing buildings, soil test, as-built site plan); and (b) the development of tender documents. Furthermore, there is an assumption that the designated identified land would be considered undeveloped or so called "green space" and that the risk threat would remain unchanged. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the decrease in design costs was due to the revision of estimated prices and the exclusion of security and safety designs not required for the new compound since the location was inside the future international zone. The previous location had existing structures which had been damaged beyond economical repair. The cost estimates had therefore included provision for the removal of such structures.

Management and oversight of the project

15. As envisaged by the Secretary-General in section IX of his report (A/62/828): (a) the UNAMI Chief of Mission Support at the P-5 level would be accountable and responsible overall for all administrative, financial and logistical aspects; (b) the Chief Engineer at the P-4 level, accountable to the Chief of Mission Support, would serve as the project manager and would be responsible for planning, organizing and controlling the project; (c) a project coordination unit, comprising six additional positions (2 P-4, 2 P-3 and 2 LL), would be responsible for the supervision, administration and management of the design and construction phases; and (d) an architectural firm would be retained to manage the construction contract, including project control, specification compliance, standards compliance, schedule compliance, health and safety compliance, performance measurement, risk identification, risk analysis and reporting during construction. The firm would be selected through a competitive procurement process and have experience in the Middle East.

16. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the engineering/architectural firm would provide all necessary personnel for the design phase and that the UNAMI Engineering Section would oversee the firm's day-to-day operations. The Department of Field Support would ensure that the firm adhered to its timelines and check that the deliverables adequately met United Nations

requirements. The Committee was also informed of the breakdown of the cost estimate of $5 million for the design phase, by component and percentage (see table).

Cost component/payment milestone	*Individual percentage*
Initial outlined design and cost estimate	20
Detail design	25
Tender documents/out to tender	20
Construction works period	30
Final account/end of defects period	5

17. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Department of Field Support usually has general oversight over engineering projects in field missions and that UNAMI would designate an officer as the project coordinator/manager to work in the Department at Headquarters. Regarding the management of the construction phase, the Committee was informed that UNAMI would provide detailed information in this regard in its forthcoming report.

18. **The Advisory Committee is not convinced of the adequacy of these arrangements. The application of a standard template for engineering projects in field operations may not be appropriate for such a project in a difficult environment. The Committee recommends that a dedicated project manager with sufficient seniority and experience be designated. The project manager should have a proven track record in the supervision of complex construction projects and be fully supported by the authorities at Headquarters competent to supervise such projects. Overall authority in the field for the project should be assigned to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom the project manager should report on matters relating to design and construction. In this connection, the Committee also draws attention to its recent report on construction of facilities at Vienna, Addis Ababa and Nairobi (A/63/465).**

19. The Advisory Committee was informed that UNAMI would work with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to ensure periodic review of the project. This could also include increasing resident auditor capacity, as necessary, through the redeployment of a position. Further, the Advisory Committee would invite the Board of Auditors to include the UNAMI construction project in its future audit plans.

Conclusion

20. In the light of the new developments outlined in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/63/346/Add.5), the Advisory Committee was provided with an updated version of the actions required of the General Assembly, which had been set out in paragraph 63 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/828). The updated actions are contained in paragraph 22 below. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat did not intend to issue a corrigendum to reflect the changed actions. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the issuance of such a corrigendum would have been appropriate.

21. In that regard, the Advisory Committee draws attention to the difference in the proposed action to be taken by the General Assembly regarding requirements for the proposed design work. The Secretary-General had originally requested that the General Assembly approve the transfer of the amount of $5 million from section 3, Political affairs, to section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/828, para. 63 (d)). The Secretary-General is currently proposing that the General Assembly approve a commitment authority for 2009 for UNAMI in the amount of $5 million under section 32 of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

22. Listed below are the updated actions required of the General Assembly, as provided to the Advisory Committee upon enquiry. The General Assembly is requested to:

(a) Approve in principle the proposal for the construction of a purpose-built integrated headquarters for UNAMI;

(b) Note the preliminary cost estimate of $98.6 million;

(c) Approve a commitment authority for 2009 for UNAMI in the amount of $5 million, under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, to undertake design work in connection with the construction of the United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad;

(d) Request the Secretary-General to submit a new, complete and detailed proposal for the construction of the United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad, under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget, for its consideration at the sixty-third session.

23. **The estimate provided by the Secretary-General in the amount of $98.6 million for the construction of a new compound is based on preliminary costing assumptions. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly await the submission by the Secretary-General of the complete and detailed proposal before pronouncing itself on the overall requirements for the construction project. The question of the approval in principle of the project is for the General Assembly to decide.**

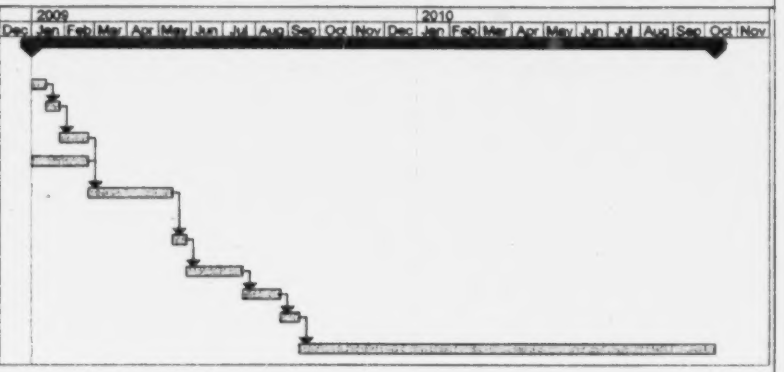
24. **Subject to the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee contained in the present report, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of a commitment authority for 2009 for UNAMI up to an amount of $5 million under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, to undertake design work in connection with the proposed United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad.**

25. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a new, complete and detailed proposal for the construction of the United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad, under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget, for its consideration at the sixty-third session, taking into account the elements referred to in the present report.**

Annex

Future development schedule for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq headquarters

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish
1	Schedule of the FUNHQ Development	729 days	Thu 01/01/09	Sun 10/10/10
2	Procurement of Technical Site Survey Services (IOR)	15 days	Thu 01/01/09	Wed 14/01/09
3	TE & Award of contract for Site Survey	15 days	Wed 14/01/09	Tue 27/01/09
4	Site Survey	30 days	Tue 27/01/09	Mon 23/02/09
5	Procurement of Engineering Consulting Services	60 days	Thu 01/01/09	Mon 23/02/09
6	Design and Preparation of Tender Documents & Expression of Interest	90 days	Mon 23/02/09	Thu 14/05/09
7	Submission to HQ for Concept & Cost Approval	15 days	Thu 14/05/09	Wed 27/05/09
8	Bidding (RFP) & TE	60 days	Wed 27/05/09	Sun 19/07/09
9	LCC/HCC	46 days	Mon 20/07/09	Mon 24/08/09
10	Award of Contract & Mobilization	20 days	Mon 24/08/09	Fri 11/09/09
11	Construction	444 days	Fri 11/09/09	Sun 10/10/10



Project: schedule
Date: Thu 30/10/08

Task — Milestone — External Tasks
Split — Summary — External Milestone
Progress — Project Summary — Deadline

Abbreviations: IOR: immediate operational requirements; HCC: Headquarters Committee on Contracts; LCC: Local Committee on Contracts; RFP: request for proposal; TE: technical evaluation.

United Nations A/63/602

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 December 2008

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda item 139
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Initial appropriation 2008/09	$100,367,400
Revised estimates submitted by the Secretary-General for 2008/09	$37,016,400
Revised recommendation of the Advisory Committee for 2008/09	$37,016,400

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the proposed revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/546 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with the Chief of Mission Support of UNMEE and other representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The proposed revised budget is submitted in view of the termination of the Mission's mandate, effective 31 July 2008 (see Security Council resolution 1827 (2008)). The initial budget of the Mission for 2008/09, which amounted to $100.4 million, was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/259. In that resolution, the Assembly decided to apportion half of that amount, or $50.2 million, subject to the extension of the Mission's mandate by the Security Council, and to assess an amount of $8.7 million on Member States for the Mission for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress in the implementation of the budget no later than November 2008 in order to provide for a revised appropriation and a further assessment, if required. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted in response

08-64415 (E) 161208

to that request. It proposes updated financial and human resources requirements taking into account the liquidation of the Mission during the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 January 2009.

3. The documents used by the Advisory Committee in its consideration of the financing of UNMEE are listed at the end of the present report.

II. Information on performance for the current period

4. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 31 August 2008, a total of $1,304,840,000 had been assessed on Member States in respect of UNMEE since its inception in July 2000. Payments received as at the same date amounted to $1,287,256,000, leaving an outstanding balance of $17,584,000. As at 30 November 2008, the cash position of the Mission was $2.6 million. The liabilities of the Mission and credits to Member States amount to $31.4 million, leaving a shortfall of $28.8 million. Details of the updated financial position are provided in annex I below.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed that a total of $11,933,000 had been paid to Member States for troop costs from 1 January to 31 October 2008, with an amount of $315,000 outstanding as at 30 September 2008. With regard to contingent-owned equipment, $8,097,000 had been paid to Member States from 1 January to 31 October 2008,, while the amount still owed was $599,000. Claims for contingent-owned equipment have been certified up to 31 October 2008. Since the inception of the Mission, death and disability compensation in the amount of $574,000 has been paid for 40 claims, unliquidated obligations amount to $157,000 and 3 claims remained outstanding as at 31 October 2008. **The Advisory Committee expects that the outstanding claims will be settled expeditiously.**

6. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 24 November 2008, the actual and planned incumbency for UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2009 was as follows:

Table 1
Actual and planned incumbency for the period from 1 July 2008 to 31 January 2009

		Encumbered					*Planned incumbency*
	Authorized[a]	*31 July*	*31 August*	*30 September*	*31 October*	*24 November*	*January 2009*
Military observers	230	71	38	10	—	—	—
Military contingent personnel	1 470	239	196	90	—	—	—
Total, military	**1 700**	**310**	**234**	**100**	—	—	—
Posts							
International staff	176	138	131	115	108	99	92
National staff	219	193	163	155	130	110	89
General temporary assistance							
International staff	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
National staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Nations Volunteers	68	55	49	49	38	38	24
Total, civilian	**464**	**387**	**343**	**319**	**276**	**247**	**205**

[a] Representing the highest authorized strength for the period.

7. The Advisory Committee was provided with updated expenditure data for the current period, including actual expenditure as at 14 November 2008 and total expenditure projected to 31 January 2009 (see annex II). Actual expenditure for the period as at 14 November 2008 amounted to $21,219,500 gross ($20,594,800 net), while the total projected expenditure to 31 January 2009 is estimated at $37,016,400 gross ($35,905,000 net).

III. Proposed revised budget for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009

A. Resource requirements

8. The Secretary-General's proposed revised budget for UNMEE for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 amounts to $37,016,400 gross ($35,905,000 net). In view of the termination of the Mission's mandate on 31 July 2008, the proposed revised budget provides for the phased repatriation of 83 military observers, 242 military contingent personnel, 143 international staff (including 1 temporary Field Service position) and 60 United Nations Volunteers and the separation of 193 national staff, as well as for the administrative liquidation of the Mission during the six-month period from 1 August 2008 to 31 January 2009.

9. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, the revised budget takes into account the temporary relocation and subsequent repatriation to their home countries of the Mission's military contingent personnel, which commenced during the 2007/08 financial period owing to restrictions imposed on

UNMEE by the Eritrean authorities. Pursuant to the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2008/368 and S/2008/427), the temporarily relocated military contingent personnel are considered as having been repatriated effective 5 June 2008. The revised budget also reflects the actual incumbency of the approved international and national staff posts as at 30 June 2008.

10. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General (see also table 1 above) that all military personnel were repatriated and the administrative closing of substantive offices was completed by 31 October 2008. Most of the substantive personnel were also repatriated, and there remained 108 international staff, 130 national staff and 38 United Nation Volunteers to support liquidation activities. The Committee further notes that a substantive team needs to be maintained until the planned completion of the Mission's administrative liquidation on 31 January 2009 in order to address and resolve difficulties in the liquidation activities requiring interaction with the senior officials of both countries (see para. 15 below). As from 1 October 2008, the team is being led by the Deputy Special Representative and includes a Head of Office (D-2), a Political Affairs Officer (P-4), 1 General Service staff and 2 national General Service staff.

11. The revised cost estimates amount to some $37 million, representing a reduction of 63.1 per cent from the initial apportionment of $100.4 million. The decrease is due primarily to reduced requirements as follows:

(a) $35.9 million under military personnel owing to the repatriation of all military personnel by 31 October 2008;

(b) $10 million under international staff, national staff and United Nations Volunteers owing to the phased reduction of the Mission's staffing establishment and the subsequent administrative liquidation of the Mission;

(c) $17.5 million under operational costs, comprising reductions under most objects of expenditure, owing to the termination of the mandate and its subsequent administrative liquidation. The reductions are partially offset by increased requirements for the transportation of United Nations-owned equipment within and outside the Mission area.

12. It is proposed that training be provided to a total of 563 staff members (6 international and 557 national) to enhance substantive and technical competencies (paras. 37 and 38), in particular capacity-building of national staff, as well as continuing refresher training for international staff in technical areas. The primary objectives of the training programme are to facilitate employment prospects of staff upon the completion of the Mission's administrative liquidation and to facilitate their reassignment to other peacekeeping missions. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Mission is working with the Department of Field Support at Headquarters to ensure that staff who have offers from other missions remain at UNMEE until they are required for completion of the liquidation process. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with additional information on the destinations of international staff (see annex III). **In view of the extraordinary circumstances faced by the Mission, with little advance notice being given of the termination of the mandate and a limited time frame to complete all liquidation activities (see para. 13 below), the Committee welcomes the Mission's proactive**

approach in planning for its human resources requirements during the liquidation phase, as well as in facilitating the reassignment of international staff to other field missions and in improving the employment prospects of national staff.

B. Liquidation activities

13. The Advisory Committee notes the complex environment in which the Mission operates and the circumstances in which the administrative liquidation has to be completed. It was informed that the Mission had only a few days' notice that the mandate was to be terminated effective 31 July 2008. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General, a range of pre-liquidation activities remained outstanding at the start of the liquidation period on 1 August 2008, including: (a) the repatriation of military personnel and contingent-owned equipment; (b) the closing of substantive offices and the repatriation of substantive staff; (c) the development of an asset disposal plan and the conclusion of agreements with the two host countries regarding the disposal of the Mission's assets; and (d) the development of a plan for the placement of substantive and support staff in other peacekeeping missions. As a result of the condensed liquidation process, more activities than usual will have to be accomplished during the six-month liquidation period, and a higher proportion of staff will be required until the liquidation is completed on 31 January 2009. In addition, the Committee notes that, given the Mission's operations in two countries, there are in effect two liquidation exercises and that the process is further complicated by the lack of flights between the two countries and the restrictions imposed by Eritrean authorities with respect to the issuance of visas for incoming staff and re-entry visas for Asmara-based staff.

14. With respect to the disposal of assets, the Advisory Committee was informed that a preliminary asset disposal plan had been finalized and that destinations had been agreed for assets that are to be retained for other peacekeeping operations. The destination of the other assets, including their sale or donation to the host countries, has yet to be decided. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of non-expendable assets and their destination, showing that as at 25 November 2008 approximately 16,000 assets with an inventory value of some $56 million (a depreciated value of approximately $19.6 million) were subject to disposal (see annex IV). In this connection, the Committee was also informed that serviceable demining equipment had been relocated to other missions (primarily the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan) and that other equipment in Ethiopia that could not be moved cost-efficiently or were not required by other peacekeeping operations were offered to the Ethiopian Mine Action Office.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that discussions with the two host countries on the disposal of assets and other liquidation matters are under way. In paragraph 10 of his report, the Secretary-General described some of the impediments to the administrative liquidation process. The Committee was briefed on the difficulties encountered in clearing sites in Eritrea. It notes that some 80 per cent of the Mission's assets are located in Eritrea, at 10 sites in Asmara and more than 30 sites outside of Asmara. In this connection, the Committee notes that, in its resolution 1827 (2008), the Security Council called upon both countries to cooperate fully with the United Nations, including in the process of liquidation of UNMEE.

The Committee encourages the Secretary-General to continue discussions with the host countries and to intensify his efforts with a view towards resolving all outstanding matters in a timely manner.

16. **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of adequate oversight during the liquidation phase and expects that the Office of Internal Oversight Services will coordinate closely with the Mission in this regard.**

C. Other matters

17. In its report on United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, the Board of Auditors had noted that "14 miscellaneous obligating documents totalling $0.55 million were without specific payees and that therefore the parties contracted could not be established". The Board had recommended that UNMEE strictly adhere to the requirements of financial rule 105.9 in relation to unliquidated obligations and improve its internal control procedures (A/62/5 (Vol. II), chap. II, para. 43 (b)). In section V of the report of the Secretary-General, which contains a summary of follow-up action taken to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, UNMEE indicates that it ensures strict compliance with rule 105.9 and that it has introduced measures to ensure that invoices to be settled against miscellaneous obligations are certified by the concerned cost centre managers before disbursements are made. **The Advisory Committee notes the measures taken and requests that further information be provided to the General Assembly when it considers the proposed revised budget of UNMEE on any action taken with respect to the Board's findings regarding the 14 miscellaneous obligating documents for which the parties contracted could not be established.**

IV. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

18. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 61 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Assembly is requested:

(a) To reduce the appropriation of $100,367,400 approved by the General Assembly under the terms of its resolution 62/259 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 to the amount of $37,016,400;

(b) To reduce the amount of staff assessment income of $2,339,800 approved by the General Assembly under the terms of its resolution 62/259 for the maintenance of the Mission for the 12-month period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 to the amount of $1,111,400;

(c) Taking into account the amount of $8,750,833 already assessed on Member States under the terms of General Assembly resolution 62/259 for the Mission for the period from 1 to 31 July 2008, to assess the additional amount of $28,652,450 for the administrative liquidation of the Mission for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009.

19. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Secretary-General's proposals.

Documentation

- Revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/63/546 and Corr.1)
- Budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/811)
- General Assembly resolution 62/259
- Security Council resolutions 1827 (2008), 1320 (2000) and 1312 (2000)
- Report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/62/5 (Vol. II), chap. II)
- Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the financial performance report and proposed budget of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (A/62/781/Add.17 and Corr.1)

Annex I

Interim financial position of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 30 November 2008

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Description	*Amount*
I.	**Cash assets**	**2 591**
II.	**Cash requirements (liabilities)**	
	Accounts payable to Member States	2 009
	Contributions or payments received in advance	3 137
	Unliquidated obligations, including prior-period obligations	6 812
	Inter-fund balances payable and other liabilities	1 870
	Subtotal	**13 828**
III.	**Cash shortfall (I less II)**	**(11 237)**
IV.	**Credits to Member States from the 2007/08 period**	
	Unencumbered balance	7 398
	Other income:	
	Interest income	1 892
	Other/miscellaneous income	356
	Cancellation of prior-period obligations	7 965
	Subtotal, other income	**10 213**
	Total, unencumbered balance and other income	**17 611**
V.	**Cash shortfall (III less IV)**	**(28 848)**

Annex II

Updated status of expenditures for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 14 November 2008

	1 July 2008 to 14 November 2008			Projected 15 November 2008 to 31 January 2009				
	Apportionment (1)	Total expenditure (2)	Unencumbered balance (3) = (1) - (2)	Expenditure (4)	Total expenditure including projected (5) = (2) + (4)	Estimated unencumbered balance as at 30 June 2009 (6) = (1) - (5)	Variance percentage (7) = (6) ÷ (1)	Reasons for variance
Military and police personnel								
Military observers	7,216.2	618.4	6,597.8	—	618.4	6,597.8	91.4	**Attributable to the repatriation of military observers**
Military contingents	34,259.6	4,511.7	29,747.9	413.0	4,924.7	29,334.9	85.6	**Attributable to the repatriation of military contingent personnel**
United Nations police	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Formed police units	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**41,475.8**	**5,130.1**	**36,345.7**	**413.0**	**5,543.1**	**35,932.7**	**86.6**	
Civilian personnel								
International staff	16,295.0	5,868.5	10,426.5	2,336.7	8,205.2	8,089.8	49.6	**Attributable to the phased repatriation of international staff**
National staff	1,636.3	515.4	1,120.9	291.8	807.2	829.1	50.7	**Attributable to the phased separation of national staff**
United Nations Volunteers	2,069.2	756.5	1,312.7	392.3	1,148.8	920.4	44.5	**Attributable to the phased repatriation of United Nations Volunteers**
General temporary assistance	119.5	10.3	109.2	—	10.3	109.2	91.4	**Attributable to the separation of an Administrative Assistant for the Conduct and Discipline Team by 31 July 2008**
Subtotal	**20,120.0**	**7,150.7**	**12,969.3**	**3,020.8**	**10,171.5**	**9,948.5**	**49.4**	
Operational costs								
Government-provided personnel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Civilian electoral observers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Consultants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Official travel	676.7	109.0	567.7	118.6	227.6	449.1	66.4	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Facilities and infrastructure	11,892.3	2,502.7	9,389.6	1,205.1	3,707.8	8,184.5	68.8	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Ground transportation	2,883.9	261.8	2,622.1	389.5	651.3	2,232.6	77.4	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Air transportation	9,070.5	2,875.9	6,194.6	1,093.7	3,969.6	5,100.9	56.2	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Naval transportation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Communications	3,058.1	726.3	2,331.8	40.7	767.0	2,291.1	74.9	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Information technology	953.5	268.7	684.8	—	268.7	684.8	71.8	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Medical	1,044.4	24.4	1,020.0	66.8	91.2	953.2	91.3	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Special equipment	501.6	26.0	475.6	—	26.0	475.6	94.8	**Attributable to the termination of the Mission's mandate and administrative liquidation of the Mission**
Other supplies, services and equipment	8,690.6	2,143.9	6,546.7	9,448.7	11,592.6	(2,902.0)	(33.4)	**Attributable to increased requirements for the transportation of United Nations-owned equipment to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi**
Quick-impact projects	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Subtotal	**38,771.6**	**8,938.7**	**29,832.9**	**12,363.1**	**21,301.8**	**17,469.8**	**45.1**	
Gross requirements	**100,367.4**	**21,219.5**	**79,147.9**	**15,796.9**	**37,016.4**	**63,351.0**	**63.1**	
Staff assessment income	**2,339.8**	**624.7**	**1,715.1**	**486.7**	**1,111.4**	**1,228.4**	**52.5**	
Net requirements	**98,027.6**	**20,594.8**	**77,432.8**	**15,310.2**	**35,905.0**	**62,122.6**	**63.4**	
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total requirements	**100,367.4**	**21,219.5**	**79,147.9**	**15,796.9**	**37,016.4**	**63,351.0**	**63.1**	

Annex III

Summary of international staffing at the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 24 November 2008

	Substantive	*Security*	*Support*	*Total*
International staff strength as at 31 July 2008	28	18	92	138
United Nations Volunteers recruited as International Staff since July	—	—	2	2
Total	**28**	**18**	**94**	**140**
Staff having left since 31 July				
Reassigned to other missions				
United Nations Headquarters	1	—	—	1
United Nations Political Office for Somalia	4	—	—	4
United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	1	—	—	1
United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	1	—	—	1
African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	2	—	6	8
United Nations Mission in the Sudan	1	—	—	1
United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan	1	—	—	1
Joint Mediation Support Team	1	—	—	1
United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia	—	3	—	3
United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste	—	2	1	3
United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad	—	—	3	3
United Nations Mission in Nepal	—	—	1	1
Subtotal	**12**	**5**	**11**	**28**
Returned to parent office	3	—	1	4
Declined offer and left UNMEE	2	—	—	2
Not placed and repatriated	3	—	—	3
Resigned and repatriated	—	—	4	4
Subtotal of staff having left	**20**	**5**	**16**	**41**
Currently in UNMEE				
Offer accepted and travel being arranged	2	—	14	16
Offer received; staff member to be released after liquidation	—	—	8	8
Offer received and being considered by the staff member	—	—	1	1
Offer declined; staff member still with UNMEE	—	—	1	1
Yet to receive an offer	6	13	54	73
Subtotal	**8**	**13**	**78**	**99**
Total	**28**	**18**	**94**	**140**

Annex IV

Breakdown and destination of non-expendable assets of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

As at 25 November 2008, approximately 16,211 asset items with an inventory value of approximately $56.2 million (depreciated value of approximately $19.6 million) were subject to disposal, as summarized below.

	Quantity	*Inventory value*	*Depreciated value*
1. Equipment for peacekeeping operations United Nations Mission in the Sudan and African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur	3 250	12 275 900	6 033 600
Department of Peacekeeping Operations/African Union Peace Support Team and African Union Mission in Somalia	275	649 600	427 600
Others	348	6 651 400	1 774 500
Subtotal	**3 873**	**19 576 900**	**8 235 700**
2. Equipment considered for donation			
Ethiopia			
Communications and Information Technology Section	419	364 400	30 800
Engineering	274	975 500	368 600
Subtotal	**693**	**1 339 900**	**399 400**
African Union	1 686	6 724 400	1 903 200
Subtotal	**2 379**	**8 064 300**	**2 302 600**
3. Equipment considered for transfer to other United Nations agencies/international organizations	810	2 509 100	767 800
4. Other equipment (destination to be finalized)	9 149	26 068 400	8 282 400
Total	**16 211**	**56 218 700**	**19 588 500**

United Nations A/63/603–S/2008/775

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 December 2008
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Sixty-third session
Agenda item 89
General and complete disarmament

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 9 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 5 December 2008 from the President of the French Republic, in his capacity as current President of the Council of the European Union, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the disarmament initiatives which the European Union presented at the United Nations this year.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Jean-Pierre **Lacroix**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

08-64496 (E) 121208 121208

Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

The United Nations has an important role to play in the debate on disarmament. Europe wishes to be a full participant in that discussion. Accordingly, I should like to draw your attention to the proposals which the European Union presented at the United Nations this year.

On 23 September I told the United Nations General Assembly that the European Union wanted to act in the service of peace. This is true in the case of counter-terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and crisis management.

It is also true with respect to disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. This matter is of special interest to Europe, two of whose member States have nuclear weapons. Europe has already made great strides towards disarmament. Considering that its security will also benefit from the pursuit of global disarmament efforts, Europe stands ready to do more; we aspire to address all aspects of disarmament, as we are convinced of the need to work towards general disarmament. In this area, as in others, Europe intends to act in accordance with a coordinated political and strategic vision.

In 2010 the international non-proliferation regime will reach a milestone with the convening of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We should seize that opportunity to make progress towards a safer world in which all of the Treaty's objectives, whether in the area of non-proliferation, disarmament or access to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, can be met. With respect to disarmament, Europe wished to propose a clear way forward this year by presenting a number of practical, realistic initiatives at the United Nations General Assembly:

- Universal ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and completion of its verification regime, and dismantling, as soon as possible, of all nuclear testing facilities, in a manner that is transparent and open to the international community;
- Immediate opening, without preconditions, of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and observance of an immediate moratorium on the production of such material;
- Development of confidence-building and transparency measures by the nuclear Powers;
- Further progress in the discussions under way between the United States and the Russian Federation on the development of a legally binding post-Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) arrangement, and overall reduction of global nuclear weapon stockpiles pursuant to article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in particular by the States with the biggest arsenals;
- Inclusion of tactical nuclear weapons, by those States that have them, in general arms control and disarmament processes, with a view to their reduction and elimination;

- Opening of consultations on a treaty banning short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles;
- Universal subscription to and implementation of the Hague Code of Conduct;
- Mobilization in all other areas of disarmament.

Progress on the road to disarmament requires that the will to move forward be shared by all. Non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control, along with confidence-building, transparency and reciprocity, are essential elements of collective security.

I hope that the international community will join the European Union in supporting and carrying out this plan of action. It is an ambitious agenda that has a real prospect of leading to concrete advances towards disarmament.

Europe is counting on your support. I therefore ask that you convey to the international community, particularly within the United Nations, this initiative in support of a safer world.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Nicolas **Sarkozy**

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